(c) and (d). 5659/5660 Sealdah-Guwahati Kamrup Express is proposed to be extended after the completion of gauge conversion works and development of terminal facilities at Tinsukia/Dibrugarh Town.

Kabithirtha Churulia Under Asansol

162. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that about 40 persons have applied for telephone connections from Kabithirtha Churulia under Asansol Telephone Exchange;

(b) whether the Nazrul Academy have offered a room for the proposed Telephone Exchange; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A new Telephone Exchange has been planned to be opened at Churulia during 1997-98.

[Translation]

Derailment of Trains

163. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of passenger trains/express trains/goods trains derailed in the NCT of Delhi location-wise during the last three years till date;

(b) whether the Government have conducted any inquiry in respect of each case of derailment;

(c) if so, the details of the inquiry in respect of each case of derailment during the above mentioned period; and

(d) the effective steps taken/proposed to be taken so far by the Government to prevent such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) There were 13 derailments at different locations in the NCT of Delhi during the period 1.4.1993 to 31.10.1996. Of these 1 involved an express train, 2 passenger trains and the rest were goods trains.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Once accident each was inquired into by the Commission of Railway Safety, Senior Administrative Grade Officers, and Assistant officers. The remaining 10 accidents were inquired into by committees of Junior Administrative Grade Officers.

(d) Some of the steps taken to prevent accidents are as under :

1. The work of track circuiting has been accelerated on the trunk routes and important main lines.
2. Signalling circuitry is being changed to prevent home signal from being lowered till the starter and the advance Starter, lowered for the previous train, have been put back to 'ON' position.
3. Auxiliary warning system for giving advance warning about signals at danger to driver of the running train has already been commissioned on Bombay sub-urban sections.
4. upgradation of track structure has been done by using heavier rails and concrete sleepers.
5. The track is maintained by Tie-Tamping and ballast cleaning machines. Track is also now being laid with track renewal trains and portal cranes.
6. For monitoring of the track geometry and running characteristics of the track, sophisticated track recording cars, oscillograph cars and portable accelerometers are being progressively used.
7. Maintenance facilities for coaches and wagons have been modernised.
8. To prevent cases of cold breakage of axle, ROH Depots have been equipped with ultrasonic testing equipment for timely detection of cases of flaws developing in the axles.
9. Training facilities for drivers, guards and other staff connected with train operation have been modernised. Drivers are being trained on simulators.
10. Performance of the staff is constantly monitored. The staff whose knowledge is found deficient are counselled and are sent for refresher training.

[English]

Over Bridges at Railway Crossings

164. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that over-bridges at Liluah, Dankuni and Mourigram railway crossings are urgently needed;

(b) if so, whether the Government are also aware of the fact that the people of these areas are agitating for the construction of over bridges; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/proposed by the Government to construct over bridges at above mentioned places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) Railways construct Road Over/Under Bridges in lieu of existing busy level crossing on cost sharing basis, the proposals for which are sponsored by the State Govt. concerned duly agreeing to share the cost of construction. No such proposal has been received for Road Over Bridge at Dankuni. construction of Road Over Bridge at Liluah is a sanctioned work. Railway will start construction work on Bridge proper after State Govt. takes up work on approaches. Proposal for construction of Road Over Bridge at Mourigram in lieu of Level crossing No.K10/23-25 is under planning with State Govt.

International Flights from Calcutta

165. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to operate more international flights from Calcutta;

(b) whether any discussions were held during this year with any foreign countries to increase Air India's flights or to increase flights of foreign airlines from Calcutta; and

(c) if so, the details and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). The Government of India is offering various incentives to foreign airlines to operate to Calcutta like the ability to combine Calcutta with other prime gate ways, liberal fifth freedom rights, liberal terms of commercial agreements etc. During the year 1996, Calcutta has been offered as a point of call to the designated airlines of Armenia, Switzerland and Slovak Republic. Australia was granted facility to combine Calcutta with Delhi or Mumbai with effect from 16.10.1996. The actual operations are, however, left to the commercial judgement of the airlines.

Amenities to Passengers at Bally Halt Station

166. SHRI ANIL BASU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to provide drinking water, shed, sitting arrangement, urinal, latrin, proper lighting at Bally Halt station; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for the delay to provide minimum passengers' amenities there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Bally is a suburban station of Calcutta and is provided with amenities commensurate with the volume of passenger traffic handled. Adequate seating arrangements, drinking water, toilets and foot-over-bridge are available. The station is also electrified.

Earnings from Plassey Railway Station

167. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the earnings from Plassey railway station during the years 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96 and upto September, 1996;

(b) whether any steps are being taken to provide minimum amenities like drinking water, sheds, sitting arrangements and toilets, etc. to this station;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any steps are also being taken to attract more tourists towards this place;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons for neglecting this station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Total earnings at Plassey railway station during 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96 & upto September, 1996 are Rs.14 lakhs, Rs.17.02 lakhs, Rs.22.37 lakhs & Rs.10.35 lakhs respectively.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Plassey railway station is equipped with following amenity items :-

(i) 3 handpumps
1 footover bridge
1 gents waiting room
1 ladies waiting hall
6 Urinals

(ii) Sitting arrangements in Platform No.1 -3.

(iii) Shed on Platform No.1.

(d) to (f). Development of tourism in each state is primarily the responsibility of the State Govt. The Deptt. of Tourism, Govt. of India extends financial assistance to the State/Union Territory Governments for various/ specific schemes based on the proposals received from them subject to the availability of funds and interse priority. So far as Plassey is concerned, neither have the Deptt. of Tourism nor the Railways received any scheme or demand from the State Government or some other agency for developing this as a tourist spot.

Introduction of Express Train between Sealdah and Murshidabad

168. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the